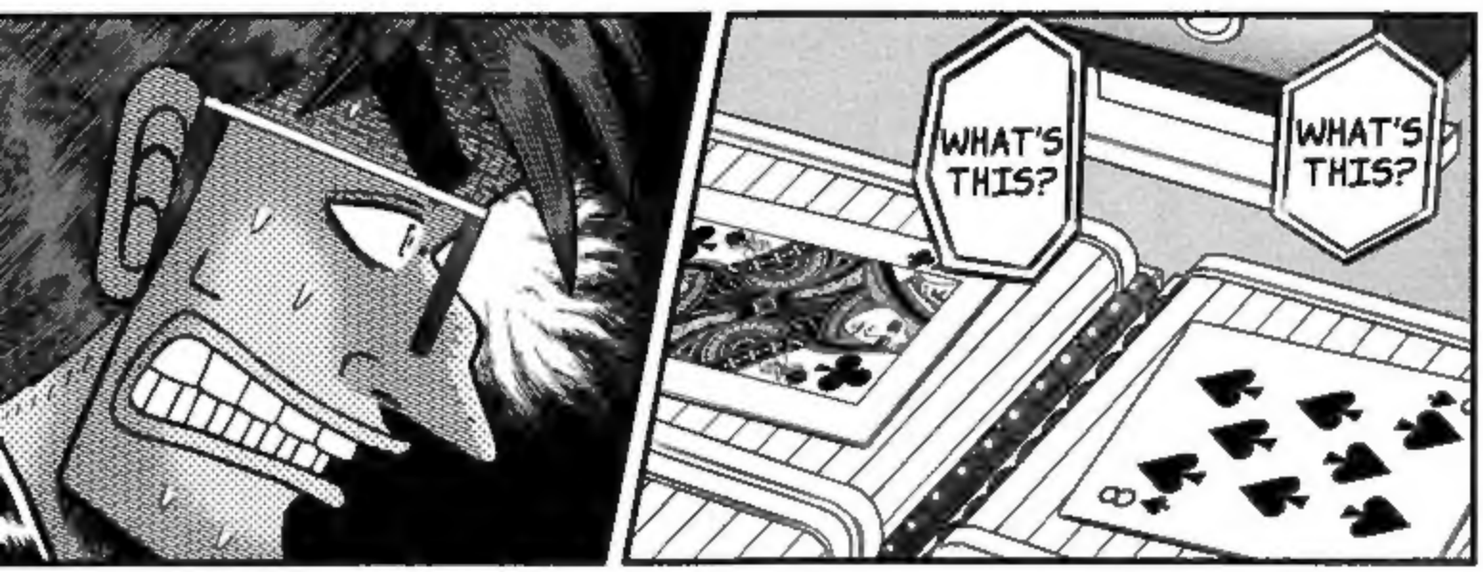
CHAPTER 189: REVERSE
第189話「裏側」

THANK GOD DDD DDD DDD DD!!
Ggh!

KAZUYA
A
3
WHAT?
GGH!
GGH!
GGH!


WHAT'S THIS?
WHAT'S THIS?

K
K
WHAT HAVE WE HERE?
WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?
HOW STRA-NGE...

WE WERE WRO-NG!
WE WERE ALL WRO-NG!
HOW STR-ANGE IN-DEED!

I WAS SO SURE...
HOW ODD...
IT WASN'T ANY OF US!

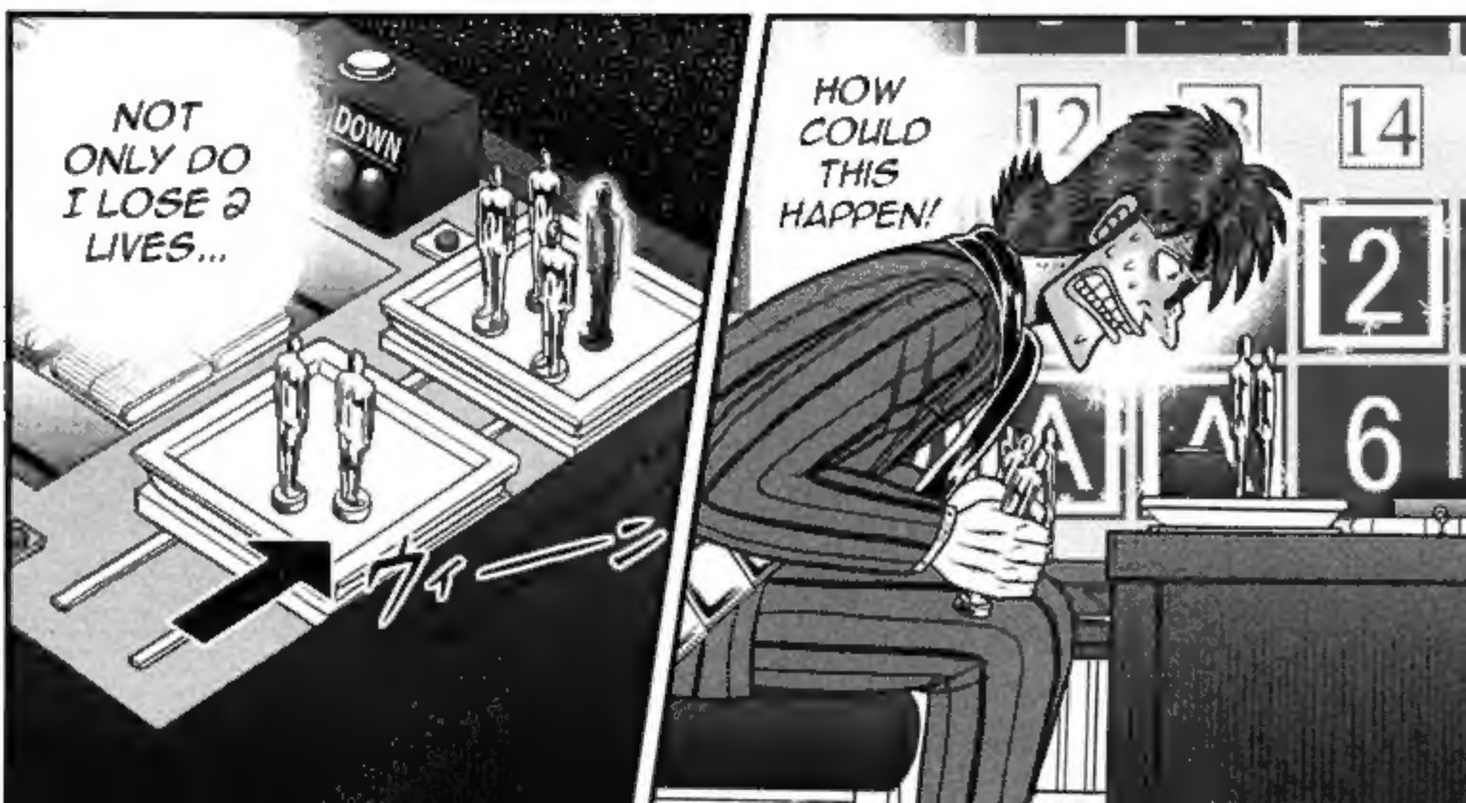
BEG YOUR PAR-DON.
BEG YOUR PARDON, YOUNG MAN.
SO WAS I!
IT WOULD BE ONE OF US!

BEG YOUR PARDON.
BEG YOUR PARDON.
BEG YOUR PARDON.
Grrgh...

AH, YES, YES!

NEXT TIME, IT WILL BE ME FOR SURE!
NOT TO WORRY!
IT WAS A RATHER UNFORTUNATE OUTCOME THIS TIME, BUT...

ME!
NO, ME!
IT WILL BE ME!
WHAT HOOTE-NANNY!
ME!
OUCH!
GNGH!


NOT ONLY DO I LOSE 2 LIVES...
DOWN
HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN!
12
14
2
6

IT'S THE WORST!!
BUT THE CURSE OF THE KING ISN'T EVEN WIPED AWAY!
U.P. DOWN
THE FUCKING WORST!!
ALL RIGHT!

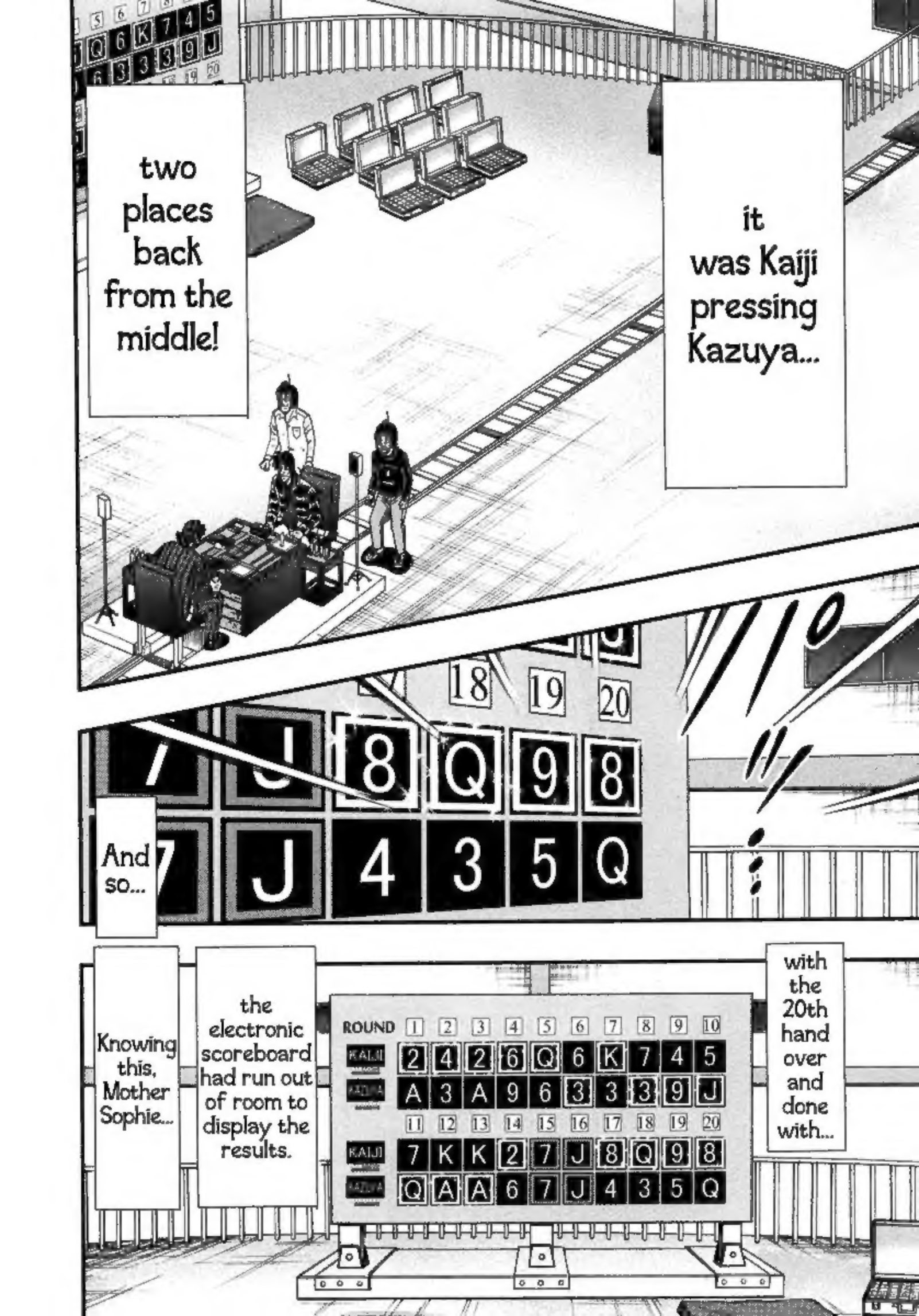
THE ONE LIFE IN MY ANTE...
NOW...
EVEN IF YOU IGNORE THE REDS...
AND THE 4 I'VE GOT LEFT BEHIND...
I'VE PRETTY MUCH CAUGHT UP...
MAKE 5!
HIS LEAD IS ONLY BY 2!
TO KAZUYA'S 7!

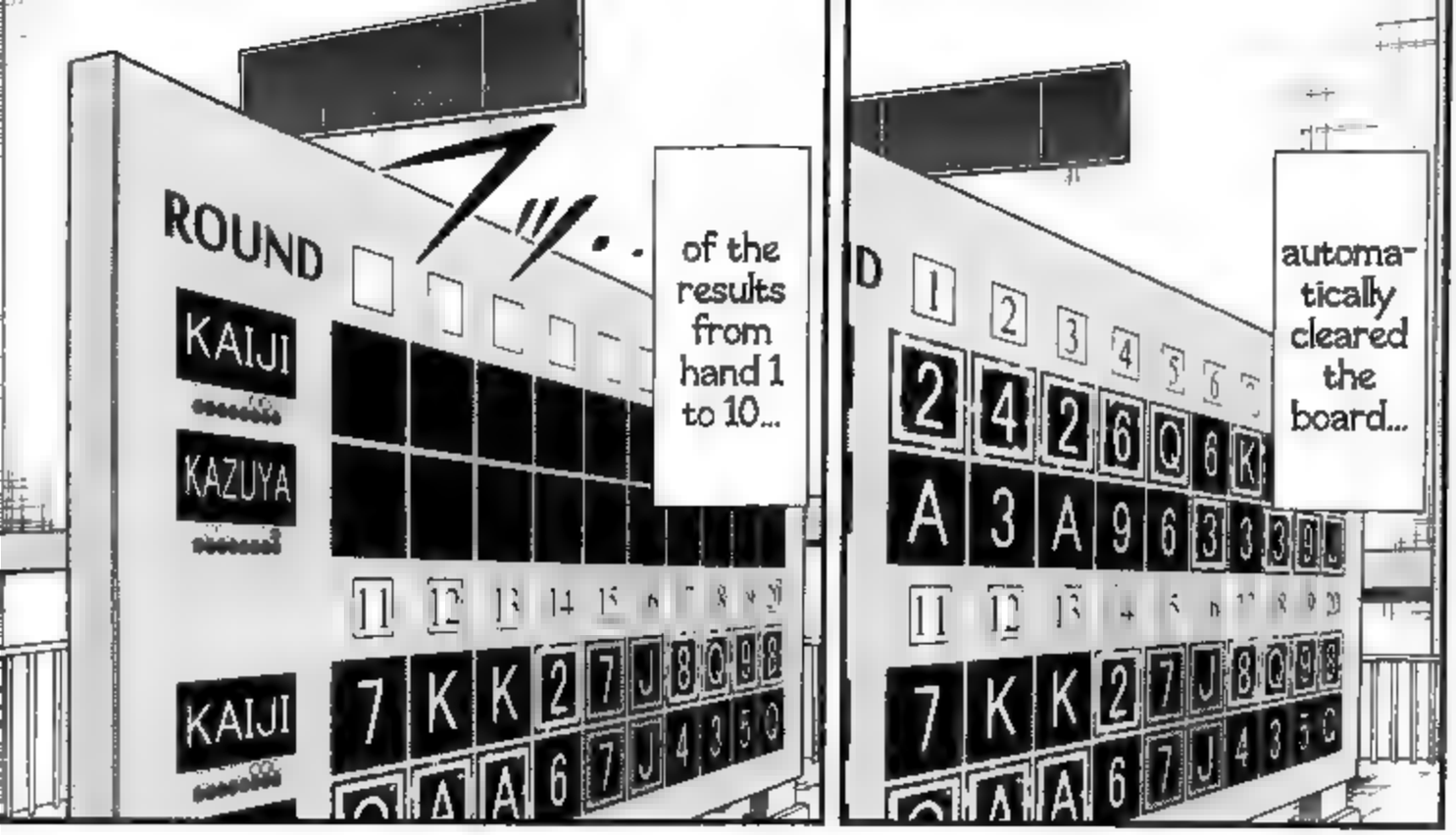
EVEN!
WIN ONE MORE HAND AND IT'S 6 TO 6!

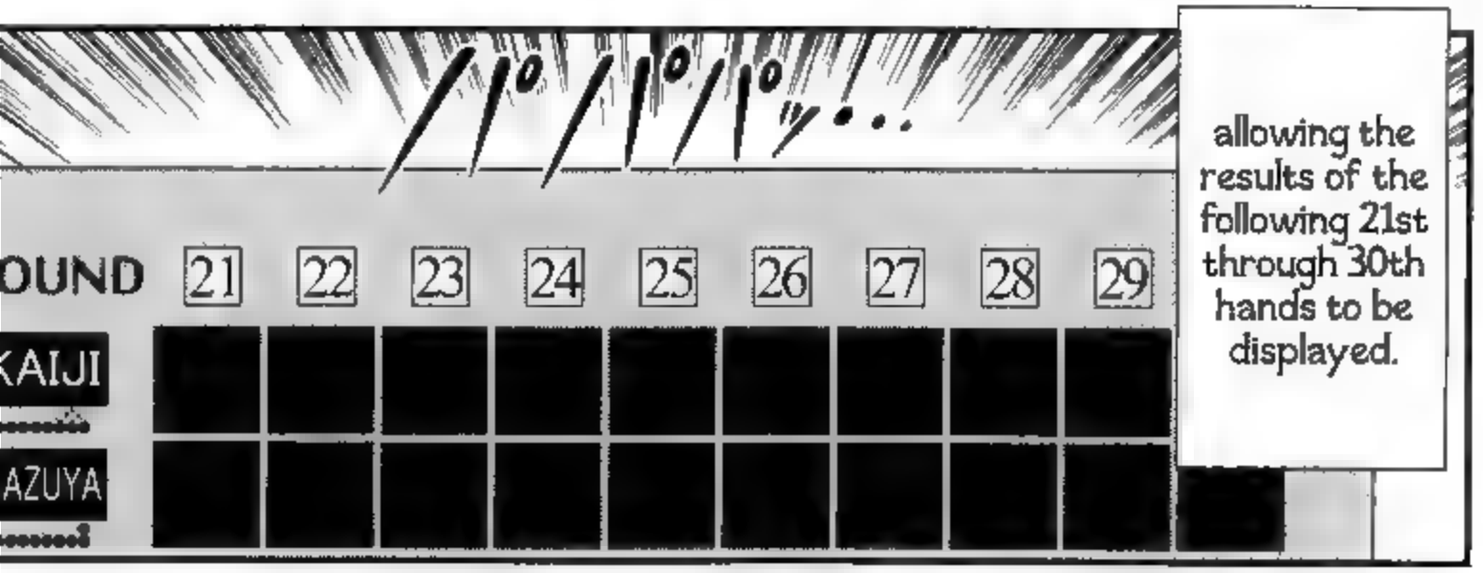
Kazuya had lost 2 lives.

In Hand 20...
TOTALLY EVEN!!
ゴゴゴゴゴッ・

Just like that...
ゴト…
ゴト…
towards Kazuya's end.
Due to this, the table moved back 2 places...


two places back from the middle!
it was Kaiji pressing Kazuya...
And so...
Knowing this, Mother Sophie...
the electronic scoreboard had run out of room to display the results.
with the 20th hand over and done with...
ROUND 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10
KAIJI 2 4 2 6 Q 6 K 7 4 5
KAZUYA A 3 A 9 6 3 3 3 9 J
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20
KAIJI 7 K K 2 7 J 8 Q 9 8
KAZUYA Q A A 6 7 J 4 3 5 Q

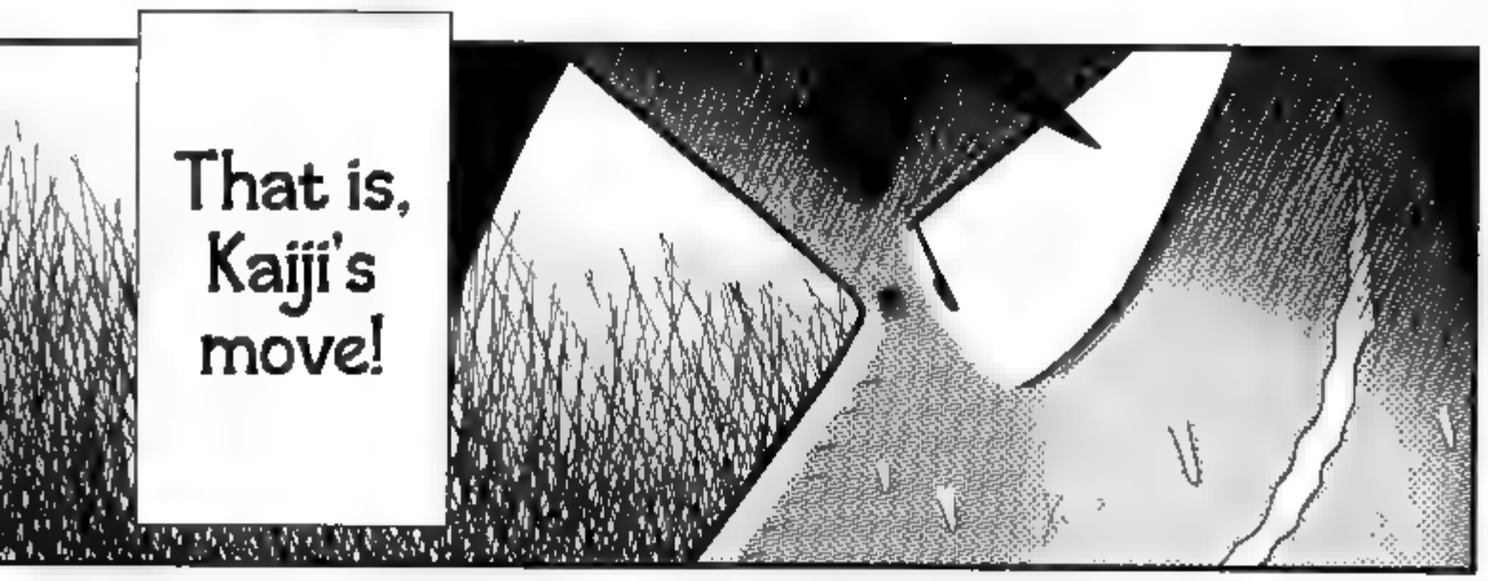

ROUND
KAIJI
KAZUYA
KAIJI
of the results from hand 1 to 10...
automa-tically cleared the board...


OUND
KAIJI
AZUYA
allowing the results of the following 21st through 30th hands to be displayed.

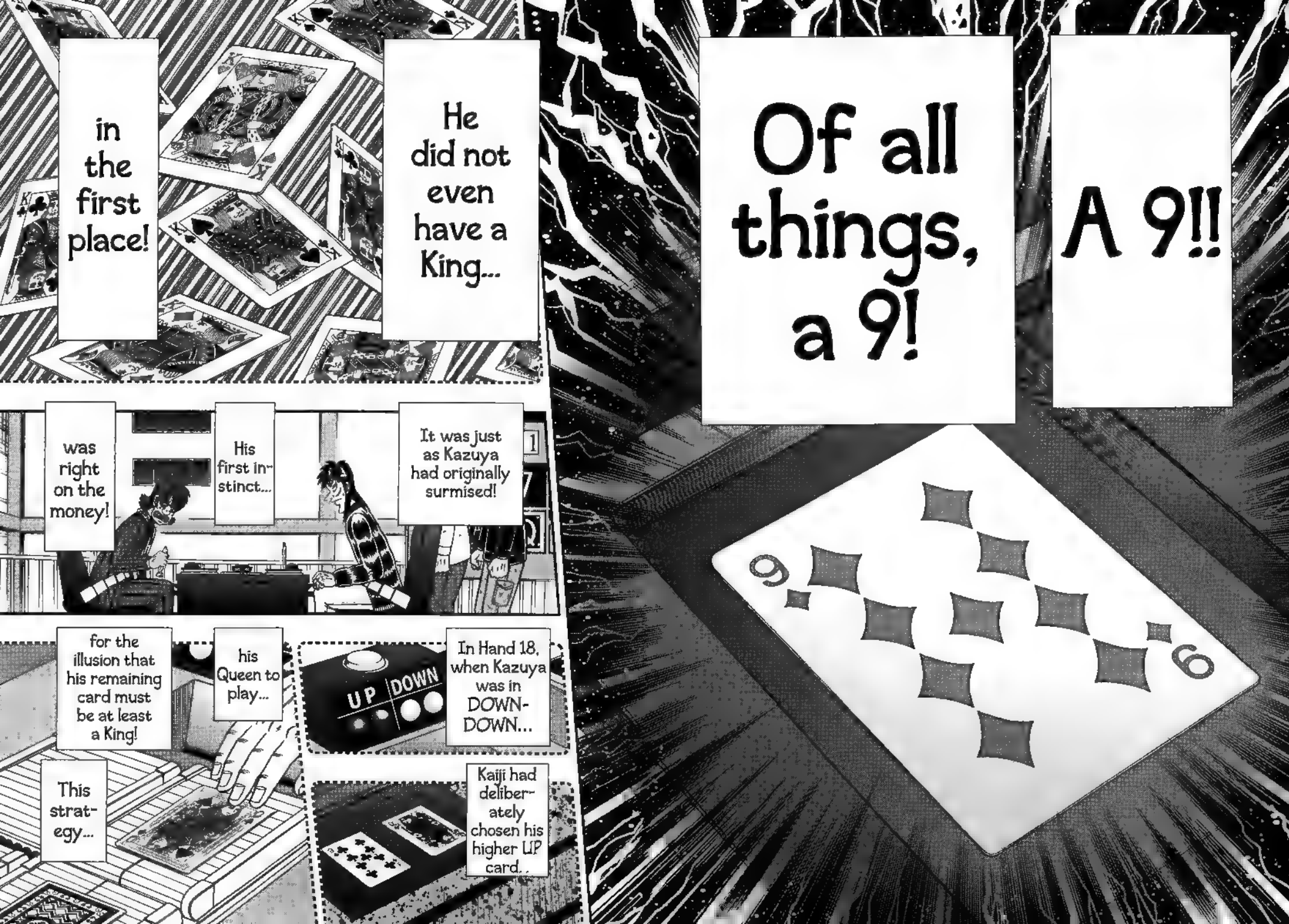
This happen-ing..
This gamble had gone on longer than antici-pated

what Kazuya could have ever imagined!
was beyond...
UP
DOWN
And yet...
. . . .
ooo
the things here that surpassed Kazuya's imagination...
UP
DOWN

were not limited to the length of the game.
There was another...
unimaginable occurrence taking place!


That is, Kaiji's move!

In Hand 20, from UP-UP...
UP
DOWN
he had played an 8!
And the card that Kaiji... had left behind...
that card was


in the first place!
He did not even have a King...
was right on the money!
His first instinct...
It was just as Kazuya had originally surmised!
for the illusion that his remaining card must be at least a King!
his Queen to play...
UP DOWN
In Hand 18, when Kazuya was in DOWN-DOWN...
This strategy...
Kaiji had deliberately chosen his higher UP card...
Of all things, a 9!
A 9!!

In other words...
was all that Kaiji had!
UP DOWN
the cards they each held..
in this 20th Hand...
Mean-ing, as far as the cards went..
and a 9 and Queen for Kazuya!
were an 8 and 9 for Kaiji...

He was in an over-whelmingly superior position!
Kazuya had no way of losing!
At its core...
More impor-tant...
Poker is not about the cards!
is the battle of percep-tions!
by mak-ing use of them...
In this gam-ble...
The planting of illu-sions!
one can win with even a weak card!

That is poker!
And that is...
the illusion of a King...
that still persists!

Now beg n ning the 21st Hand
The Curse of the King!

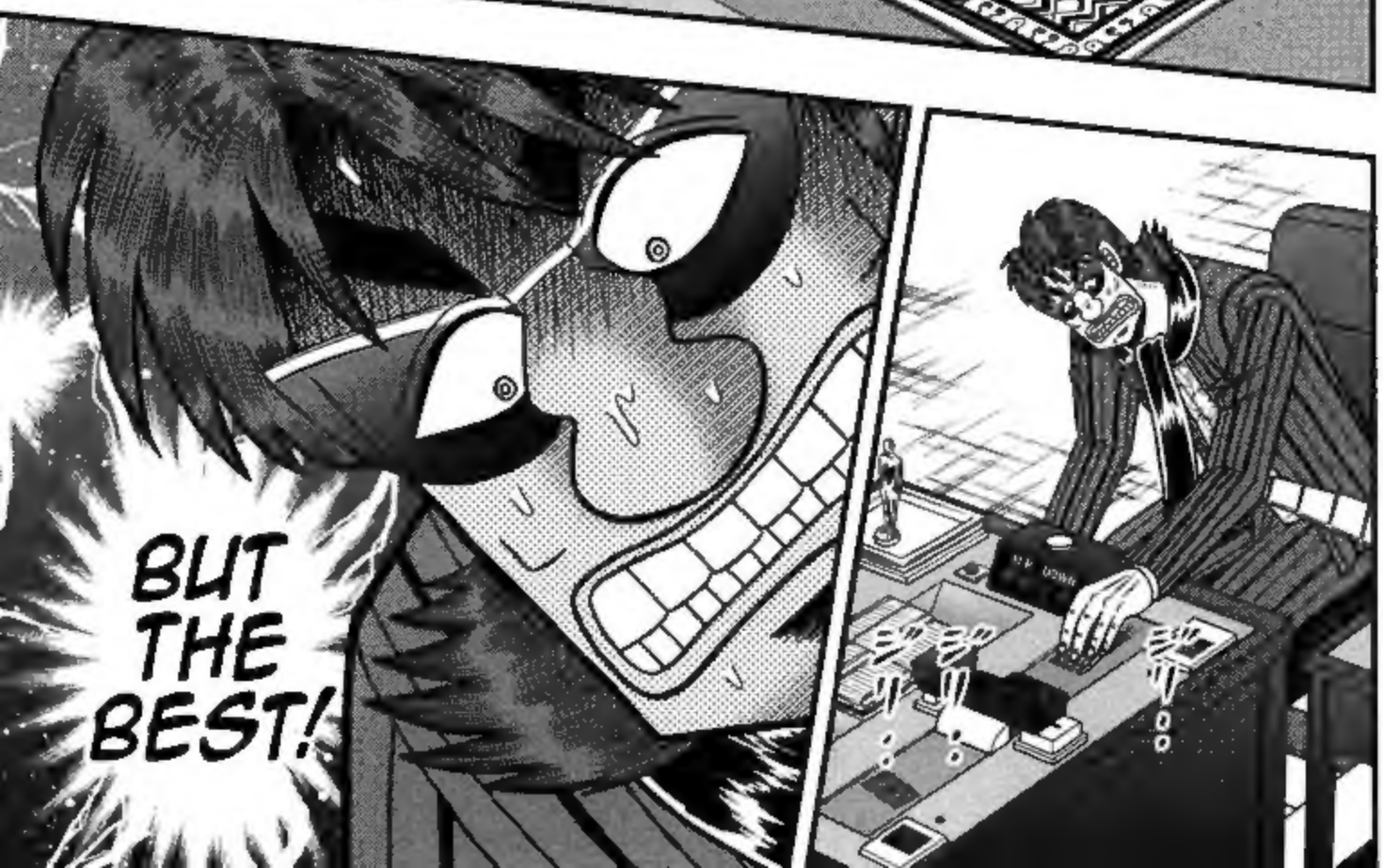
Now begin ning the 21st Hand.
Now begin ning the 21st Hand.

Kazuya would struggle!
So long as this curse was not broken, he would continue to struggle!

to Kaiji!
First card
to Kazu-ya!
Second card
C'MON!

WITH NO MERCY AS LONG AS IT'S THERE!
TO NEEDLE AT MY WEAK-NESSES...
HE'S GONNA KEEP USING THAT ILLUSIONARY KING...

AT THIS POINT, I NEED NOTHING...
I'VE GOTTA BREAK THROUGH IT!


BUT THE BEST!

CHAPTER 189: FIN...

第189話 終

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